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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT First Frontier Troop Detachment in Belogradchik

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) - - - -

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) 25X1A

DATE (OF INFO.)

DATE DISTR. 5 May 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. Up to [redacted] the frontier troops stationed in Belogradchik were attached to the First Frontier Troop Detachment. In [redacted] however, it became the First Frontier Troop Regiment with headquarters in Belogradchik. In the fall of [redacted] the entire detachment with weapons was transferred to Kula.
2. Personnel of the Detachment:
  - a) Major Khristov (fnu), commanding officer, 45 years old, was an officer prior to 7 Sep 44, discharged in 1952.
  - b) Senior Lieutenant Yalunov (fnu), political commander, 25 years old, member of the Party, completed special school for political commissars; now in First Frontier Troop Regiment in Kula.
  - c) Senior Lieutenant Gulev (fnu), chief of staff, 35 years old, former partisan, born in Asenovgrad.
  - d) Senior Lieutenant Shterev (fnu), commanding officer of the First Company, born in Pleven Okoliya, 30 years old, treats the troops well.
  - e) Senior Lieutenant Angelev (fnu), 28 years old, born in Kolarovgrad.
  - f) Senior Lieutenant Gospodarski (fnu), 28 years old, a good officer and a good man, but has a weakness for women, from Plovdiv Okoliya.
  - g) Lieutenant Eurov (fnu), 26 years old, from Pervomay Okoliya.
  - h) Senior Lieutenant Todorov (fnu), 26 years old, born in Kolarovgrad, political commander of the 2nd Company, a Communist.
  - i) Lieutenant Kalandzhiev (fnu), 45 years old, platoon leader of the 2nd

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platoon, of the 2nd company.

- j) Junior Lieutenant Zlatanov (fnu), 23 years old, from Dobrudzha, platoon leader of the 3rd Platoon of the 2nd Company.
  - k) Lieutenant Money (fnu), 25 years old, born in Tolbukhin, platoon leader of the 4th Platoon of the 2nd Company.
  - l) Senior Sergeant Govanov (fnu), [2nd ?] Company, 35 years old, from Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya.
3. There are about 30 troops in the detachment; 40 officers, five senior sergeants, and 20 sergeants. The [2nd ?] company has about 140 troops. Each platoon has 25-32 troops and there are four platoons in the company. Each platoon has four squads (otdelenie) of 8-10 soldiers.
  4. Each squad has one MG 34 or Degtyarov light machine gun, three 7.62 mm Shpagin machine pistols with 72-round drums and five Vintovka rifles. Each platoon has one Maksim Sokolov heavy machine gun, four light machine guns, 12 machine pistols, and 20 Vintovka rifles. The company has four heavy machine guns, 16 light machine guns, 36 machine pistols, and 80 Vintovka rifles. The company also has offensive/defensive grenades and signal rockets. The officers and noncommissioned officers are armed with pistols, the latter with Schmeissers. The Vintovka rifles are 1.66 m long, the magazine holds five 7.62 mm rounds, and the bayonet (shtik) is 0.43 m long. The rifle has a maximum range of three thousand m, an effective range of 800-one thousand m, and an accurate range of 400-600 m. The Maksim Sokolov heavy machine gun is always supplied with six thousand rounds ready for use. The light machine gun is supplied with at least four thousand rounds. The Degtyarov guns are given to zastavas and komandaturas.
  5. Each frontier-troop detachment has four komandaturas and each komandatura has six zastavas. Each zastava has 50-60 men, excluding officers. The number of personnel may vary according to the place to be defended, observed, or controlled. In especially dangerous places, the number of troops may be increased.
  6. The weapons of the zastava consists of: one Maksim Sokolov heavy machine gun with six thousand rounds, four Degtyarov light machine guns with at least nine thousand rounds, 17 Shpagin machine pistols, 100 offensive/defensive hand grenades, and 110 mines for mining sensitive areas. The zastava is almost equal to a platoon. It controls a border area of seven-nine km, depending on the location and the importance of the area.
  7. An officer commands the zastava. There is an assistant commanding officer (political), a deputy commanding officer for equipment (stroeva sluzhba) and noncommissioned officers.
  8. Border patrols (chasovi na granitsata) consisting of two or more men, armed 30 percent with automatic weapons, patrol 500 m from the border. Hidden sentry duty (secret) is performed by three or more men, with 30 percent automatic weapons, who are stationed at passable or barely passable places, such as falls and crossroads, where suspicious persons might pass illegally.
  10. Observation posts (Nablyudatel) consist of at least three men who are sent out early in the morning to a camouflaged spot. They are armed 30 percent with automatic weapons and usually have a light machine gun. They also have binoculars or a telescope, are supplied with dry bread, and are on duty from morning until late evening. Local observer (ogledvach na mestnostta) duty is performed by two men armed with Vintovka rifles and grenades. They are sent into the interior to see whether anyone is passing through or whether propaganda material is being distributed.
  11. Search parties (Protrusvachi na mestnostta) consist of at least two men, usually in pairs, search the area if they are informed that persons have passed through the district.

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12. Ambush detail (zasada) is an armed detail of seven or more men, always commanded by an officer. It is stationed at strictly defined places to wait for persons who have been reported as planning to pass by there.
13. Escort detail (convoy) is a duty performed by two or more men who escort any captured persons to the place where they are handed over to the proper military authorities.
14. Communications detail (poshta) connects the zastavas with one another, delivers secret orders, letters, or commands, which cannot be delivered by telephone or telegraph.
15. The detail is announced each night at 2000 hours, but the men who will be in it, where it will be, or what time they will leave, is not revealed. They are told only that they will leave by midnight of the same day. The men are told half an hour before leaving about their assigned posts. Under ordinary circumstances, each soldier is on duty five hours at night and four hours during the day. If necessary, he may be on duty six hours at night and five-six during the day. In cases of extreme necessity, he may be on duty longer. Only the commanding officer of the zastava assigns personnel to details. There is always one old and one new soldier in a detail since the older soldier knows the land and the duties much better. Reliable Communists are in details with suspicious soldiers. Only reliable Communists are sent to the more important and responsible posts.
16. The security precautions are increased in the evening before any holidays when it is suspected that persons could cross the border. Especially before the 1 May and 9 Sep holidays details are strengthened and especially heavily armed with machine guns. In this case, the details are not designated as each must stay on duty. The soldier is allowed to shoot without warning (usually a warning must be given before firing). At this time the commanding officer of the zastava must make the rounds of the posts day and night. Each soldier is responsible for anyone who passed, even if it is not proved until later that someone did pass while the detail was on duty. If a soldier discovers someone escaping and shoots at him, but does not capture or kill him, he is sentenced to three - five years in prison (according to military statute).
17. Each month each zastava is visited by the commanding officer of the detachment (otryad). He inspects training and preparation procedures of the frontier troops as well as their morale, talking with some of the soldiers individually. He and the commanding officer of the zastava visit some of the more important places in the district of the zastava, including detail posts (especially the hidden sentry duty, the observation post, and the ambush detail). In Jan 53, the entire frontier area of northwest Bulgaria was controlled by Colonel Dimitrov (fnu), Chief of Staff of the Frontier Troops, and by a Soviet Colonel.
18. In each frontier-troop point (village), where there is a frontier-troop zastava, there is formed a Group for Cooperation (GS, Grupa za sudeystvie). Some villages have two such groups. They are comprised of persons from the DOSO (Dobrovolna organizatsiya za sudeystvie na otrana, Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation), Party members, and approved member of DSNM (Dimitrovski suyuz na narodnata mladezh, Dimitrov's Union of People's Youth). They must be ready in case of need to be at their assigned posts or ambushes. Each member of the group has a carbine with 60 rounds of ammunition at his house. Their signal is the firing of a shot by the commanding officer of the zastava. When they are called, one soldier and two civilians go on duty unless the civilians are not trustworthy. This is never the case, since they are Party members. However in the event that they are not trustworthy, two soldiers and one civilian go on duty.

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